

CLAIMS

1. A recording apparatus comprising:

means for generating, from input moving picture data, a thumbnail picture representing said moving picture data, as first thumbnail data, and for generating, from said moving picture data, a thumbnail picture of a picture extracted as a characteristic picture, or a thumbnail picture of a picture specified by a user, as a second thumbnail data; and

means for recording said first thumbnail data and the second thumbnail data, generated by said generating means as independent groups on a recording medium.

2. The recording apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said generating means generates said first and second thumbnail data as respective independent files.

3. The recording apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said generating means generates said first and second thumbnail data as respective independent data blocks and as one file.

4. The recording apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said generating means generates first management data supervising said first thumbnail data with a number corresponding to the first thumbnail data, said generating means also generating second management data supervising said second thumbnail data with a number corresponding to the second thumbnail data;

said recording means recording said first and second management data in said recording medium.

5. The recording apparatus according to claim 4 wherein said first and second management data include data specifying the format of the picture data of the thumbnail data being supervised.

6. The recording apparatus according to claim 4 wherein said recording means records picture data of said thumbnail picture contained in said first or second management data in terms of a block of a preset size as a unit.

7. The recording apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said recording means records the information representing the referencing destination of said first thumbnail data as a separate file on said recording medium.

8. The recording apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said recording means further records the information indicating the referencing destination of said thumbnail picture contained in said second thumbnail data.

9. A recording method comprising:

a generating step of generating, from input moving picture data, a thumbnail picture representing said moving picture data, as first thumbnail data, and for generating, from said moving picture data, a thumbnail picture of a picture extracted as a characteristic picture, or a thumbnail picture of a picture specified by a user, as a second thumbnail data; and

a recording controlling step of exercising control for recording said first thumbnail data and the second thumbnail data, generated by said generating step as independent groups on a recording medium.

10. A recording medium having recorded thereon a computer-readable program, said computer-readable program comprising:

a generating step of generating, from input moving picture data, a thumbnail picture representing said moving picture data, as first thumbnail data, and for generating, from said moving picture data, a thumbnail picture of a picture extracted as a characteristic picture, or a thumbnail picture of a picture specified by a user, as a second thumbnail data; and

a recording controlling step of exercising control for recording said first thumbnail data and the second thumbnail data, generated by said generating step as independent groups on a recording medium.

11. A program for having a computer execute

a generating step of generating, from input moving picture data, a thumbnail picture representing said moving picture data, as first thumbnail data, and for generating, from said moving picture data, a thumbnail picture of a picture extracted as a characteristic picture, or a thumbnail picture of a picture specified by a user, as a second thumbnail data; and

a recording controlling step of recording said first thumbnail data and the second thumbnail data, generated by said generating step as independent groups on a recording medium.

12. A reproducing apparatus comprising:

first readout means for reading out management data supervising picture data

of a thumbnail picture representing the contents of said picture data in case playback of said picture data is commanded;

second readout means for reading out said picture data based on said management data read out by said readout means;

third readout means for reading out picture data of a thumbnail picture of a picture extracted as a characteristic picture from said picture data or picture data of a thumbnail picture of a picture specified by a user, and management data supervising said picture data; and

fourth readout means for reading out said picture data based on said management data read out from said third readout means.

13. A reproducing method comprising:

a first readout controlling step of reading out management data supervising picture data of a thumbnail picture representing the contents of said picture data in case playback of said picture data is commanded;

a second readout controlling step of controlling the readout of said picture data based on said management data readout-controlled by the processing of said first readout control means;

a third readout controlling step of reading out picture data of a thumbnail picture of a picture extracted as a characteristic picture from said picture data or picture data of a thumbnail picture of a picture specified by a user, and management data supervising said picture data; and

a fourth readout controlling step of reading out said picture data based on said management data readout-controlled by the processing of said third readout control step.

14. A recording medium having recorded thereon a computer-readable program, said computer-readable program comprising:

a first readout controlling step of controlling the readout of management data supervising picture data of a thumbnail picture representing the contents of said picture data in case playback of said picture data is commanded;

a second readout controlling step of controlling the readout of said picture data based on said management data readout-controlled by the processing of said first readout control means;

a third readout controlling step of reading out picture data of a thumbnail picture of a picture extracted as a characteristic picture from said picture data or picture data of a thumbnail picture of a picture specified by a user, and management data supervising said picture data; and

a fourth readout controlling step of reading out said picture data based on said management data readout-controlled by the processing of said third readout controlling step.

15. A program for having a computer execute

a first readout controlling step of controlling the readout of management data supervising picture data of a thumbnail picture representing the contents of said picture

data in case playback of said picture data is commanded;

a second readout controlling step of controlling the readout of said picture data based on said management data readout-controlled by the processing of said first readout control means;

a third readout controlling step of reading out picture data of a thumbnail picture of a picture extracted as a characteristic picture from said picture data or picture data of a thumbnail picture of a picture specified by a user, and management data supervising said picture data; and

a fourth readout controlling step of reading out said picture data based on said management data readout-controlled by the processing of said third readout control step.

16. A recording medium having recorded thereon first data comprised of picture data, thumbnail picture data of a thumbnail picture extracted from said picture data, indicating the contents of the picture data, and management data for supervising data of said thumbnail picture, and second data comprised of thumbnail picture data of a thumbnail picture of a picture extracted as a characteristic picture from said first stated picture data or picture data of a thumbnail picture of a picture specified by the user and management data supervising the picture data.